

## Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 111450Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7419

NASA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 1215

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: TSPA, NASA, MA

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF NASA TRACKING STATION

REF: STATE 162893

1. AS OF 5:00 P.M. JULY 11 THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSURE OF NASA STATION. PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA HAS PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12 IN CONNECTION WITH DEPARTURE OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION WHICH MAY SERVE AS OCCASION FOR ANNOUNCEMENT BUT HE MAY WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE - JULY 15.

2. CHARGE PASSED REFTEL TO STATION DIRECTOR THIS MORNING DURING MEETING WITH HIM, BENDIX MANAGER, BENDIX ADMIN OFFICER AND EMBASSY STAFF. ALL ACTIONS DIRECTED IN REFTEL WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TODAY EXCEPT FOR ACTUAL PACKING OF EQUIPMENT. CHARGE BELIEVES IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BETTER PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT IF MALAGASY HEAR ABOUT STATION CLOSURE FROM RATSIRAKA RATHER THAN AMERICANS. REACTION OF MALAGASY EMPLOYEES TO NEWS IS IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF ORDERLY CLOSING OF STATION WITH COOPERATION OF MALAGASY EMPLOYEES. WHATEVER RATSIRAKA SAYS WE THINK MOST MALAGASY STATION EMPLOYEES WILL BELIEVE THAT NASA WOULD NOT WANT TO CLOSE STATION DURING ASTP. CONSEQUENTLY, MALAGASY EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF RATSIRAKA'S DECISION AND ARE STILL WORKING ON ASTP PREPARATIONS. STARTING TO PACK WOULD LET CAT OUT OF BAG AND COULD PUT ONUS ON USG IN EYES OF EMPLOYEES. IN ADDITION, DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS

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ALONE WILL CONSUME CONSIDERABLE TIME OVER NEXT FEW DAYS FOR

US STATION PERSONNEL. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, ALL OF ABOVE MAY NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE AND IF NASA WISHES STATION TO UNDERTAKE "DISMANTLING AND PACKING COMMAND ELECTRONICS IMMEDIATELY" IT WILL BE DONE. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF ALL NASA/BENDIX DEPENDENTS POSES PROBLEM IN TERMS AVAILABILITY OF SEATS ON OUTBOUND FLIGHTS DURING PEAK SEASON HERE. EMBASSY INTENDS TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL PLANE OR TWO FROM AIRLINE SERVING TANANARIVE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE SUGGEST WE CHARTER. LARGE BLOCKS OF SEATS OR EVEN 4-5 PER FLIGHT MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE MID-AUGUST. EMBASSY WILL SEEK FACILITATE EXIT DOCUMENTATION FOR DEPENDENTS THROUGH FOREIGN OFFICE.

4. EMBASSY WILL ALSO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE EXPORT DOCUMENTATION AND TO RETAIN SOME COMMO FACILITIES FOR STATION. BOTH WILL BE DIFFICULT AT BEST AND IMPOSSIBLE AT WORST.

5. NASA STATION AND EMBASSY WELCOME MCKEEHAN ASSISTANCE.

6. CHARGE HAS JUST BEEN CONVOKED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICER FOR MEETING IN 30 MINUTES. REPORT ON MEETING WILL FOLLOW BY SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.

ELFERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRACKING STATIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CLOSURE OF NASA TRACKING STATION  
**TAGS:** TSPA, MA, NASA  
**To:** STATE NASA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC  
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